

MEMORIAL

OF SUNDRY

CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,

PROPRIETORS OF

A Dyeing and Printing Establishment

ON

STATEN ISLAND.

JANUARY 19, 1824.

Read, and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

WASHINGTON :

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

1824.

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

The Memorial of the subscribers **RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:**

That they are the proprietors of an extensive dyeing and printing establishment, erected at a great expense, on Staten Island, near the city of New York, which is now in full operation.

That, in this establishment, at this time, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty workmen are employed in dyeing and printing a variety of fabrics, and that the colors here given are as brilliant and permanent as the same could receive in Europe or elsewhere. But, your memorialists further represent, that the most important and material branch of their business, is the dyeing and printing of cottons and silks; that silk goods could now be imported comparatively a raw material, and be enhanced in value, by dyeing and printing, from thirty to fifty per cent. and then meet with a ready sale in the South American, West India, and other foreign markets; that this enhancement in value, together with the original cost and duties, will thus be drawn from foreign nations. But, there is one circumstance which prevents this trade, so very important to the mercantile and manufacturing interests of our country; that is, silks and cottons, when changed in color, are not entitled to debenture, consequently, the importer is necessitated to have his silks printed and dyed in foreign countries, by nations jealous of our commerce, and inimical to our manufactures, thereby draining the country of vast sums in specie annually, which would otherwise be given to American workmen, and American manufacturers.

Your memorialists further respectfully represent, that, from information obtained from our most respectable merchants, the sale of silks, dyed and printed in fancy style, is very great in the South American and West India markets, and is rapidly increasing; and the colors and prints given by Americans are decidedly preferred, not only by our own merchants, but by foreigners, to whom the same are sold, and your memorialists most confidently represent that to be the case, and so it will be found on investigation. That, if debenture was allowed on India silks and cottons, after being changed by dyeing and printing in this country, vast quantities of plain silks in

a raw state, would be imported, dyed, and printed in our country, and re-shipped to foreign markets, and the interest of the merchant and manufacturer, and the internal skill, commerce, and industry, of America, be greatly promoted. The refusal of the debenture prevents that operation, so that many cargoes are sent immediately from the United States, without being the least enhanced in value, by native labor and enterprize. Your memorialists ask for no increase of duties, no protection to force a sale of their article, no interference with the revenue; but they do ask of their Government a slight alteration of the law, to entitle India silks and cottons to debenture, after they have undergone a change by printing or dyeing, and are exported, the same as though no such change had taken place, allowing such time for the process of printing and dyeing, and under such rules and regulations for identifying such goods, to be the same on which the duties had been paid or secured, as Congress in its wisdom shall see fit to adopt; and thus create an important branch of internal trade, that will, by the duties on the increased exportation, of comparatively a raw material, increase the revenue, and, by the enhanced value of such articles of from thirty to fifty per cent. and, when sold to foreign nations, bring into our country a stream of wealth which would enrich our manufacturers and merchants, and enable Americans successfully to compete with foreigners, by affording a protection, which, while it enriches us as individuals, enriches us as a nation.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

WILLIAM BARRETT,
WILLIAM TILESTON,
SAMUEL MARSH,
ISAAC MCGAW.

New York, 5th January, 1824.

We, the subscribers, importers of, and dealers in, India goods, in the city of New York, consider the dyeing and printing establishment of Barretts, Tileston & Co. as one of the most extensive in America; and it is our decided opinion, that, if India goods were entitled to debenture, after being changed in color, the importation of plain and other fabrics would be greatly increased for that purpose; and, after the same were thus enhanced in value by dyeing or printing, a ready sale would be found for them in foreign markets; and that, by such trade, the mercantile and manufacturing interests would be equally promoted, and dealers in India goods would be relieved from considerable losses, heretofore sustained, by the colors of goods being damaged, and thereby made unsaleable. We unite with these memorialists in asking of Government an allowance of debenture on India goods, after they are dyed or printed; and, we are of opinion, that, should it be granted, the increased importation of plain

goods, to be prepared here, for the South American, West India, and other markets, would, at the usual reservation for the use of Government, equal, if not increase, the present revenue derived from those articles, and enrich our manufacturers and merchants.

*G. G. & S. Howland,
John Jacob Astor & Son.
Fish & Grinnell,
Thos. H. Smith,
P. & J. S. Crary,
P. Remsen & Co.
Smith, M. Call & Co.
Nathl. S. & G. Griswold,
Thos. G. & Wm. F. Cary.*

*Thos. Buckley,
Goodhue & Co.
Leroy, Bayard & Co.
Joseph Osborn,
H. Booraem,
Parish, Holbrook & Co.
Dawner & Crumby,
Arthur Tappan,*

